



The children of Joseph Stacy Murdock, first bishop of Heber City. Most of them spent their lives in Wasatch County. Seated, left to right, Ann Coleman; Margaret Murray, Ellen C. (Lottie) Wright, Jane Hylton. Back row, left to right, Parley A. Murdock, Andrew Murdock, Alva Murdock, William Murdock, David N. Murdock, John H. Murdock and Frank Murdock.

ing program for leadership. Those of experienced leadership quickly trained their counselors and local brethren and then were often called to other areas, leaving Church administration in the hands of those they had trained.

Bishop Murdock chose men of the area as his counselors. They were John W. Witt and Thomas Rasband with John Hamilton as ward clerk. In addition to presiding over Heber Ward, these men also directed Church affairs throughout the valley.

Under Bishop Murdock's direction, presiding elders were appointed in the communities that by this time were large enough to meet separately. John Harvey was named at Center Creek in 1861 and Sidney Epperson was called as presiding elder in 1862 for the upper Snake Creek settlement. In 1864 David Van Wagonen was sustained as presiding elder for the lower Snake Creek area and John Watkins of Midway was later appointed to preside in Charleston and traveled there to hold meetings on Sunday.

The calling of Bishop Murdock in Heber Ward lasted until 1867 when he was called by President Young to move to Southern Utah and attempt to raise cotton there. During his six years in Wasatch County he gained the love and respect of the people for his kindness and gener-

osity. He was also respected by the Indians because he had reared a young Indian girl and then later married her.

John W. Witt acted as bishop of the ward temporarily for several months and in December, 1867, President Young appointed Abram Hatch of Lehi, Utah County, as the new bishop of the ward.

Near Christmas time he left Utah County with his family and started for Heber and his new calling. It happened to be a very cold, rainy day and the canyon roads were bad, so William Averett, Robert Lindsay and Orson Hicken were dispatched to help the new bishop and his family make the journey.

His coming to the valley opened a new era in the lives of the people, for not only was Bishop Hatch an able Church administrator but he was also a man of sound business and financial judgment. Leaders called in the past had been particularly fitted for the pioneering work of the new area, but the community was established now and growing rapidly. The business experience of Bishop Hatch was to serve the people well during the 33 years he held positions of Church leadership in the area.

In addition to establishing a community store and strengthening the Church organization, Bishop Hatch encouraged the people to build better and more convenient homes and more adequate roads. He also played an important role in construction of a canal that benefitted the people of Heber and vicinity for many years.

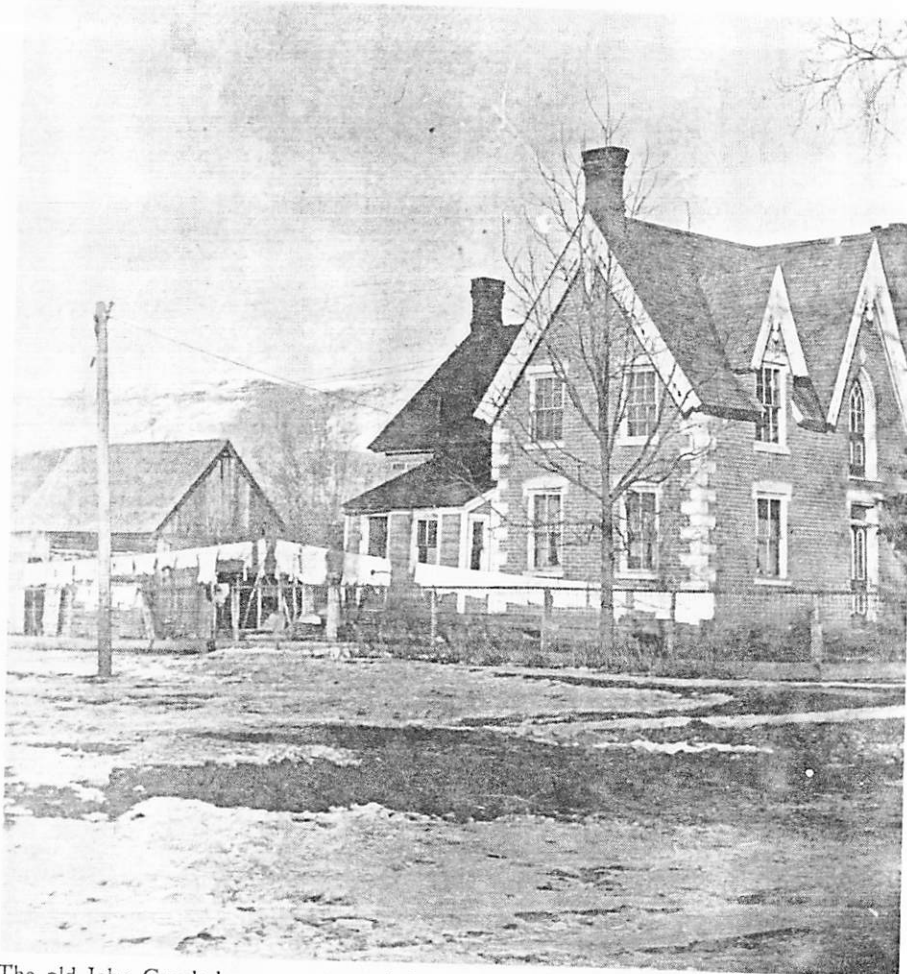
During 1872 and 1873 Bishop Hatch directed the building of a social hall on main street. It was used for town meetings, Church services, dances and theatrical performances and served for many years.

Then in 1877 the area had grown sufficiently that the Church officials decided to organize a stake in the area. On July 14 and 15, 1877, Elders John Taylor and Franklin D. Richards of the Council of the Twelve Apostles came to Heber to effect the organization.

Bishop Hatch was called as the first stake president with Thomas H. Giles as first counselor and Henry S. Alexander, second counselor. Charles Shelton was sustained as stake clerk. High councilmen sustained were Joseph S. Murdock, John W. Witt, Isaac Baum, John Muir, James J. Howe, John McDonald, Gustavus Johnson, Henry McMullin, Sr., George W. Brown, Attewall Wootton, Sr., Henry Clegg and Daniel Bigelow.

At the same time Heber was divided into two wards with all those living east of Main Street included in the East Ward and all those west of Main Street in the West Ward. Thomas Rasband was ordained bishop of the East Ward with John Muir and Harmon Cummings as counselors and William Forman was chosen to head the West Ward with John Crook and George T. Giles as his counselors.

The stake, as organized, extended into Uintah County on the east, north into what is now Summit County and covered all of Wasatch



The old John Crook home constructed from brick manufactured at the Van Wagoner brick yards in Wasatch County.

of Sanpete and Sevier Counties to a reservation in eastern Wasatch County. The Indians, led by Chief Black Hawk were bitter about the move and refused to stay on the reservation land. They roamed over the state and on April 10, 1865 became involved in an incident with white settlers near Manti in Sanpete County. A white person was reported, in a drunken state, to have pulled an Indian off a horse and insulted him. The Indians needed only this slight provocation to go on the warpath.

By the Spring of 1866 the Indians were making general raids, stealing cattle and threatening the lives of the white settlers. Several men were killed in Sanpete and Sevier counties during raids, and because



Residence of Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Wherritt, one of the finest early homes in Heber. Built in the early 1900's by John Austin and purchased by Dr. Wherritt in 1908. It was built before electricity and city water were supplied. Water for the home was hand pumped from a well on the lot to tanks in the top of the home which supplied pressured water. It is still one of the outstanding homes of the city.

of this some white settlers retaliated by killing a few Indians. The war began in earnest then.

Because the Indian reservation was located in Wasatch County the leaders of the territorial militia advised that the people band together to protect themselves. One small settlement was formed at Midway, but most of the valley moved into Heber City.

In the meantime, Colonel Robert T. Burton and David J. Ross came to Heber on May 26, 1866, and enrolled all the available men in the valley into companies to protect the people and their animals. John W. Witt was appointed major of the county militia with Charles Wilcken as adjutant. William M. Wall was appointed Captain of a cavalry company and John Hamilton and Thomas Todd were captains of infantry companies. John Galligher was a captain of a silver grey company. The Midway cavalry company was headed by Sidney Epperson, and Ira Jacob was captain of the Midway infantry. Other officers of the militia were John Crook, David Van Wagoner, Joseph McCarrel and John M. Murdock.

One of the first acts of the Wasatch militia was to make peace. A